



# Dungog & Gresford Parishes

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

Incorporating worshipping communities at **St Mary's Church**, Brown Street, Dungog, **St Patrick's Church**, Rifle Street, Clarence Town, **St Helen's Church**, Park Street, East Gresford, **Sacred Heart Church**, Summerhill Road, Summer Hill via Vacy, and serving the surrounding districts.

## SUNDAY 30 JULY 2023

### 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

#### Parish Staff

Fr Andrew Doohan (*Parish Priest*)  
Kerry Copus (*Parish Secretary*)

#### Presbytery & Parish Office

55 Brown Street, Dungog  
PO Box 24, Dungog NSW 2420

P: (02) 4992 1477

E: [dungog.parish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:dungog.parish@mn.catholic.org.au)

W: [www.dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au](http://www.dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au)

Emergency contact for Fr Andrew: 0412 405 671.

#### Office Hours

The Parish Office is staffed on Tuesdays from 10am until 2pm & Fridays from 10am until 1pm.

#### Parish Bulletin

Items for inclusion in the Parish Bulletin should be received at the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays. Copies of the Bulletin are available from the Parish website and are updated weekly.

#### Other Contacts

Clarence Town      Val Preece—0403 251 434,  
   (02) 4996 4474, or email  
   [vip\\_1@bigpond.com](mailto:vip_1@bigpond.com)

Gresford              Faith Banister  
   0427 536 248

#### Safeguarding Promotion

For all safeguarding concerns within the parishes, please contact Fr Andrew in the first instance at the Parish Office (or mobile in emergencies).

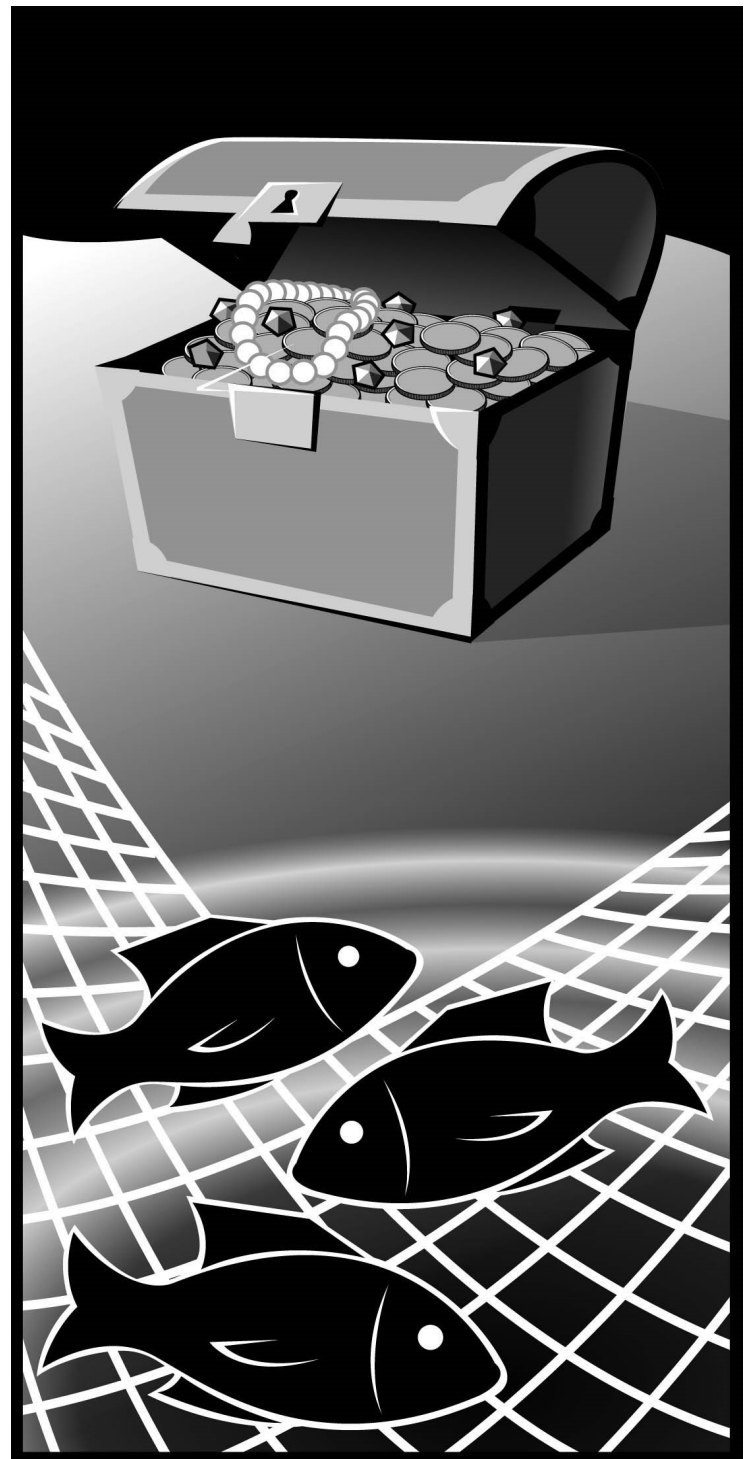
#### Parish School

St Joseph's Primary School  
49 Brown Street, Dungog NSW 2420  
Mrs Lisa McNeilly (*Principal*)

P: (02) 4992 1377

E: [admin@dungog.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@dungog.catholic.edu.au)

W: [www.dungog.catholic.edu.au](http://www.dungog.catholic.edu.au)



# SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

## Matthew Ch 13

*Over the last few weeks we have now heard Matthew Chapter 13 almost in its entirety. We heard first the parable of the sower then last week three short parables about weeds amongst the wheat, the mustard seed growing into a great tree and leaven in the flour. Finally, today we have had these additional pithy parables. The entire chapter seeks to paint metaphoric images of the kingdom. Woven through these images is a suggestion that the kingdom is open to all – all are presented with the invitation – but not everyone will accept that invitation or respond to it in the same way.*

### Morning Tea at Clarence Town

The next morning tea at Clarence Town will be held after the 8am Mass next Sunday (6 August). Please bring a plate to share, and stay with us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

### COUNCIL NOMINATIONS CLOSE NEXT WEEK!

A reminder that nominations for elected members of the Pastoral Council close at **5pm on Sunday, 6 August—THAT'S NEXT WEEK!**

Please give some final thoughts to who might be a suitable member of our parishes community to serve in this role.

### Establishment of the Pastoral Council

A reminder that the following is the timetable for the establishment of the Pastoral Council of the Catholic Parishes of Dungog & Gresford:

- Close of nominations for elected members will be 5pm on Sunday, 6 August 2023;
- Election of elected members, if necessary, will take place on Sunday, 20 August 2023;
- The new Council will take office on 1 October 2023.

So please give some thought and prayer to who might be the right person to serve as a member of the Pastoral Council. And don't forget, the right person might just be you!

### Wanted: Parish Safeguarding Promoter

As mentioned in last week's bulletin, our parishes are currently searching for someone to take on the role of Promoter of Safeguarding for our parishes.

If you're interested in this role, or would like to discuss the role in great detail, please speak with Fr Andrew in the first instance.

This is an important role that will help us meet our moral and legal responsibilities to provide a safe space for children and vulnerable adults.

### Dungog Combined Churches Service

The Combined Churches of the Dungog area will be celebrating a Worship and Supper Night on **Sunday 30 July** commencing at **6.30pm** at the Dungog Uniting Church.

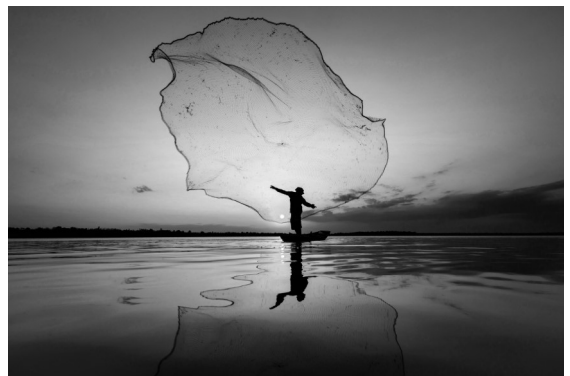
All are welcome to attend. Please bring something to share for supper.

### Parish Liturgical Conversations

The second of our "Liturgical Conversations" will take place on **Saturday 12 August** at St Helen's, East Gresford commencing at **10:30am**.

The session will be repeated in the Dungog Parish Hall on **Thursday 17 August** commencing at **4pm**.

This conversation will continue our exploration of the the liturgical principles that came from the Second Vatican Council's first document, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy.



The Catholic Parishes of Dungog & Gresford recognize we stand upon the traditional country of Gringai clan of the Worimi people, who have walked upon and cared for this country for thousands of years.

We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and deep spiritual attachment and relationship to this country.

We pay our respects to their Elders—past, present, and emerging—and commit ourselves to working together for reconciliation and justice.

### **Workshops & Cathedral Lecture**

We are excited that Father Richard Lennan will be visiting his hometown this August. During his stay he is offering several workshops and presentations. Join Richard in 'filling' the Church for a more faithful, just, and creative church, one responsive to the movement of grace.

Tuesday, 15 August—Workshop open to all the diocesan community: *The Church: Foundations, Challenges, and Possibilities*. Maitland Gaol, 9.30am-3.30pm.

Wednesday, 16 August—Cathedral Lecture, open to all the diocesan community: *Shaping the Church's Future: The Grace of Creative Faithfulness*. Sacred Heart Cathedral, 6pm-7pm.

Friday, 18 August—Workshop open to all the diocesan community: *The Church: Foundations, Challenges, and Possibilities*. Forster Tuncurry Parish Hall, 9.30 am-3.30pm.

For more information and to register, please visit [bit.ly/3qXGznX](http://bit.ly/3qXGznX).

### **'Come Rest A While' Reflection Day**

In appreciation and interested Christian Initiation ministers, 'Come rest a while' is an opportunity to listen, reflect, and get to know other ministers. This year's reflection day will take place on **Saturday 9 September** at Charlestown, commencing at 10am and finishing 3.30pm. Morning tea and lunch is provided.

More details and registration is available at [bit.ly/44BV6hM](http://bit.ly/44BV6hM).

For enquiries or registration assistance, contact Sharon Murphy: phone 4979 1134, or email [sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au)

### **Opportunities from the Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation**

#### **Are You Retired or Seeking A Deeply Rewarding Ministry to Others?**

We invite you to join Heart of Life's **Taster Session 2 on Saturday 5 August 2023, 9.30-11am, via Zoom**, where we'll share with you information on our formation programs to become a spiritual director, pastoral supervisor, spiritual leader and contemplative listener to others. Our programs develop a compassionate, listening heart. The session will include a facilitated reflection session led by formation team members at Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Bookings via [bit.ly/3rf7AgD](http://bit.ly/3rf7AgD) or send an email to [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne) for more details.

### **Rediscovering Joy—Dr Michele Connolly**

How are hearts set on fire with love of God and love of the world? 'The only thing that counts for me,' wrote Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, 'is not to propagate God but to discover him.' Join us for a day of formation with Dr Michele Connolly, current Associate Professor of Biblical Studies within the Catholic Institute of Sydney and University of Notre Dame Australia.

In a retreat style and setting, Michele will help us examine how rich and life-giving Scripture can be, revealing a God whose story intends to renew our lives and calls us to actively engage with the world.

Monday 11 September, Crown Plaza Hunter Valley, 9.30am – 3.30pm, \$30pp.

RSVP: 13 August 2023. Register at [bit.ly/3pqWSD9](http://bit.ly/3pqWSD9).

### **Dungog Mother's Union Afternoon Tea**

The Dungog Mother's Union will be hosting an afternoon of musical entertainment provided by students from Dungog High School on **Thursday 10 August** in the Christ Church Anglican Hall, Dowling St, Dungog.

The afternoon will commence at 1.30pm with the opening of the stall, with the musical entertainment commencing at 2pm.

The cost, including afternoon tea, is \$10, with all proceeds going towards the Mother's Union Overseas and Outreach programs.

Please RSVP to the Secretary, Margaret Flannery, on 4992 1839 or 0427 921 839.

### **National Catholic Safeguarding Standards**

Parishioners may be aware that over the next few months, the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is being audited against its compliance with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards.

Our Director of Safeguarding, Sean Tynan, has recorded a short 15-minute presentation designed to let parishioners know about the audit process and, for those parishes who will be audited, what they can expect. That presentation can be found by going to [bit.ly/3K5VOvo](http://bit.ly/3K5VOvo).

Although our own parishes are not being audited on this occasion, parishioners might be interested in knowing more about the audit process and the standards against which we might be audited in the future.

Fr Andrew

## The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

17th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 31 July

Memorial of St Ignatius of Loyola

Tuesday 1 August

Memorial of St Alphonsus Ligouri

Wednesday 2 August

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 3 August

Memorial of St Dominic

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 4 August

Memorial of St John Vianney

9.30am Mass @ Dungog (Years 5 & 6 students from St Joseph's attending)

11am Anointing Mass @ Lara Aged Care

Saturday 5 August

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 6 August

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

## Today's Liturgy:

**1st Reading** 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

**Psalm** Psalm 118  
Lord, I love your commands.

**2nd Reading** Romans 8:28-30

**Acclamation** cf Matthew 11:25  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

**Gospel** Matthew 13:44-52

### Memorial Acclamation

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for July:** "We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters."

### Safeguarding in our Parishes means ...

The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is important.

Our Catholic Parishes of Dungog & Gresford are committed to fostering communities of safety and care.

We acknowledge our legal, moral, and spiritual responsibilities to care for and uphold the dignity and rights of children, young people, and vulnerable adults.



## Have you thought? Interpretation

*In today's passage the gospel writer appears to describe himself: "every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old." It is a fantastic description of what it means to be an interpreter of the gospel. To interpret scripture, one must draw on what is old; applying understandings of the text in its original context and its original audience. But one must also draw on what is new; making connections between that original setting and the context in which it is being read today.*

### In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

**Those Who Have Died:** Nola Dooley, Tom Banister.

**Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In July:** Kathleen Kealy, Veronica Trappel, Peter Fortunaso, Vera Pritchard, Maisie Atkins, George Allen, Alan Hinton, Eileen Sandiland, Daphny Massey, Paul Murphy, Lex Loudon, Samuel Rizzuto, Marie Garner, Maurice Garner, Ross Young, Pat Hartcher, Joyce Clark, Helen Hall, John Diver, Joan Mitchell, Kevin Murphy.

**Those Who Are Sick:** Maryann Smith, Daphne Bond, Maree McCulloch, Leonie Young, Lisa Reid, Bev Herbert, Denise Wenden, Warren Wade, Irene Robinson, Ray Tonkin (Qld), Luke Barry, Kathie Maynard, Kevin Ward, Brian Holstein, David Loudon, Michaela Brown, Phillip Hartup, Bella Duggan, Ella Rusak, Peter Byron, Peter Rooke, Graham McCarthy, Matthew Kerr.